

U.S. Department of Justice

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MEMBERS OF SALISBURY AREA DRUG RING SENTENCED

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that today U.S. District Judge J. Frederick Motz sentenced defendant Ronald Seldon's mother, Yvonne Seldon, age 58, to 24 months in prison followed by 2 years of supervised release; girlfriend, Edwina Harmon, age 36, to 18 months in prison followed by 2 years of supervised release; and Harmon's mother, Sylvia Harmon, age 63, to 2 years of probation with 4 months in home confinement under electronic monitoring and 200 hours of community service, arising from their conspiracy to engage in monetary transactions in excess of \$10,000 derived from Ronald Seldon's drug distribution activities. All of the defendants are from Salisbury, Maryland.

According to the Statement of Facts presented to the court on March 29, 2004 as part of their guilty pleas, between 1996 and April 2003, Ronald Seldon conspired with numerous individuals to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute cocaine and cocaine hydrochloride, primarily in Prince George's County and counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. During the course of the conspiracy, Ronald Seldon solicited Edwina Harmon, Syvlia Harmon and Yvonne Seldon to launder his drug proceeds: through their

various bank accounts; the purchase of vehicles, including two Mercedes Benz cars; and by assisting in the purchase of various Maryland properties, including one location in Baltimore and one in Salisbury. Through the course of the conspiracy, Ronald Seldon provided Edwina Harmon and Yvonne Seldon with large quantities of cash from his drug proceeds to pay for household bills, private education costs for the children of Edwina Harmon and Ronald Seldon, credit card purchases, and other expenses relating to their properties and residences. The total amount of laundered funds was in excess of \$1,000,000.

Judge Motz also ordered that the three women forfeit any interest in various automobiles, bank accounts, residences, jewelry and cash used in furtherance of their drug and money laundering activities and purchased with drug-related proceeds. Judge Motz previously sentenced Ronald Seldon on June 8, 2004 to 30 years incarceration and ordered him to forfeit his interest in such property.

This Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force case is a result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Salisbury Post of Duty and Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division, with assistance from the Salisbury Resident Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Wicomico, Dorchester and Somerset County Narcotics Task Forces of the Maryland State Police. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Angela R. White and Christine Manuelian.